

Member Engagement Steering Committee

Purpose

AIA Seattle is a membership organization serving the needs of more than 2600 members across 10 counties. The Member Engagement Steering Committee works in support of the strategic direction of the AIA Seattle Board of Directors to provide support for the engagement of members through member committees. Member committees deliver events, learning opportunities, and network building.

Mission + Vision + Values

OUR MISSION:

We champion the central role of architects in creating and sustaining a better built environment.

OUR VISION:

We envision a culture of design that fosters equitable, resilient, and thriving communities.

OUR VALUES:

- Demonstrate and promote design excellence.
- Represent our collective design voice, while valuing individual contributions.
- Speak up on important issues, convene courageous conversations and embrace risk when it serves our mission.
- Advocate for opportunity, diversity, and inclusion in practice and process.
- Consider future generations and elevate sustainability to safeguard our Northwest landscape, community and climate.
- Foster cross-industry connections and partnerships to magnify our collective impact.

OUR IMPERATIVES:

AIA Seattle commits time and resources to align our work to achieve change in three primary categories:

Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion: AIA Seattle is committed to identifying, naming and dismantling systemic discrimination within the architecture community in order to nurture universal inclusion and fairness in the built environment, for the communities we impact.

Housing: AIA Seattle is committed to the development of plentiful, quality, diverse, and sustainable housing options for current and future residents of Seattle.

Climate: AIA Seattle commits itself to positive climate action and accelerating our shared goals of a decarbonized, equitable and resilient built environment that allows future generations and ecosystems to thrive.

Collective Responsibilities

Strategic Support

The Member Engagement Steering Committee supports AIA Seattle member committees to provide a space to support the interests, professional goals, learning and connection for all types of members. The Steering Committee develops and implements tools and structures for member engagement through committees.

Stewardship and Guidance

The Steering Committee evaluates ongoing committee activities and develops tools and resources to align committee activities with the chapter's Mission + Vision + Values. The Steering Committee encourages committees to create relevant programming for all members. The Steering Committee collaborates with the Professional Practice Steering Committee, who implement the tools created by the Member Engagement Steering Committee to support content specific driven member committees.

Individual Expectations

Member Engagement Steering Committee members serve as ambassadors for the organization who share opportunities for engagement with their network. Steering Committee members attend monthly meetings to conceive, plan, and execute activities in support of member committees.

Each Steering Committee member serves as a liaison to at least one member committee, evaluating committee activities through the Annual Plan process. Member Engagement Steering Committee members are required to communicate with their assigned committees quarterly, provide support and recommendations to execute their respective committee purpose, and foster connections between committees.

Committee Year at a Glance

September 1	Member Engagement Steering Committee year begins
Early Sept	Joint meeting with Professional Practice Steering Committee to set Orientation agenda + overall steering committee alignment
Late Sept/early Oct	Orientation meeting with chairs of Member Committees
Nov/Dec	Review committee Annual Plan documents and provide feedback
Jan	Committees return revised Annual Plans to staff (as needed)
Early April	Joint meeting with Professional Practice Steering Committee to set Mini-Retreat agenda + overall steering committee check-in
Late April/May	Committee Chair Mini-Retreat for mid-year networking/review of activities

July/Aug	Review committee chair toolkit and additional resources
Aug	Identify new Member Engagement Committee members for Board year beginning Sept 1

Composition

Number

The Member Engagement Steering Committee is comprised of 6-8 AIA members in good standing, who represent the diversity of our membership. The Steering Committee is chaired by one member of the AIA Seattle Board of Directors and may include a co-chair who is a member of the committee.

Term

Member Engagement Steering Committee members are appointed by the Board of Directors for a 3-year term beginning in September. Member Engagement Steering Committee members may be appointed for an additional term.

Expertise

Membership Steering Committee members represent a range of member experience. This includes representation from the full ten-county service area, diversity of ethnicity, diversity of gender expression, diversity in lived experience and knowledge expertise, various firm sizes and types, and Allied/Small Business members.

Member Committee Portfolio

Member Engagement Steering Committee members shall serve as a liaison to one of the following:

- Asian American Designers Union
- Committee on Homelessness
- Diversity Roundtable
- Laddership
- Seattle International Architecture Forum
- Small Practice & Residential Committee
- Women in Design
- Young Architects Forum

Liaison support for the following, focused on professional practice will be provided by the Professional Practice Steering Committee:

- Architecture for Health
- Architecture is Labor
- Adaptation & Resilience
- Code

- Committee on Architecture for Education
- Committee on the Environment
- Honor Awards
- Mass Timber
- Urban Design Forum